

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended)

A container capable of having an interior sealed with respect
5 to an ambient atmospheric condition and having a valve which is
automatically actuatable thereon, said container comprising:

- a) a container housing:
- b) openable cover means on said housing and which
10 is openable providing access to an interior
compartment;
- c) a locking snap-fastening latching means for
holding said cover means in a closed position
with respect to said container housing, ~~and~~
15 said locking means including a shiftable snap
fastening latching element enabling a locking
of the container and simultaneously enabling a
~~seal~~ sealing of the interior compartment; and
- d) valve means associated with said ~~cover means or~~
snap-fastening latching element of said
20 locking means ~~and being actuatable and having a~~
valve closure shiftable with said latching
element to automatically open or close said
valve means in response to an action of opening
or closing the ~~cover~~ locking means ~~or and~~
25 locking same or unlocking same.

2 (Currently Amended)

The container of Claim 1 further characterized in that said valve means is located to be ~~actuated~~ closed by locking of said locking means and thereby sealing said interior compartment.

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3 (Currently Amended)

The container of Claim 2 further characterized in that said snap fastening latching element comprises a locking latch which forms part of a locking means ~~comprises at least one locking latch~~ and said valve means is located to be engaged and actuated by the locking of said locking latch.

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4 (Currently Amended)

The container of Claim 3 further characterized in that said valve means comprises a valve actuator located on said locking latch and closes said valve when locked and is moved to cause an opening of said valve means when said latch is unlocked.

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5 (Currently Amended)

The container of Claim 4 further characterized in that said actuator comprises a valve projection on said latch.

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6 (Currently Amended)

The container of Claim 5 further characterized in that said valve means comprises an opening in said container and which is engaged by said valve projection when said locking latch is locked.

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7 (Original)

The container of Claim 6 further characterized in that said projection has a face which extends over and covers said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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8 (Original)

The container of Claim 6 further characterized in that said projection extends into said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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9 (Currently Amended)

A container capable of having an interior compartment sealed with respect to an ambient atmospheric condition and for equalizing pressure conditions in a different ~~ambient atmosphere~~ pressure condition, an improvement comprising:

- a) an opening on a housing of the container between said housing interior compartment and an external atmosphere;
- b) a shiftable locking means latch for holding a cover member associated with said housing in a closed position and enabling a seal of the interior compartment; and
- c) valve projection means associated with said locking ~~means~~ latch and being actuatable in response to an action of opening or closing the locking ~~means~~ latch such that the valve projection means engages said opening and covers same when the locking latch is shifted to the closed position and is removed from said opening when said latch is opened.

10 (Currently Amended)

The ~~improvement in the~~ container of Claim ~~4~~ 9 further characterized in that said valve projection means is located to

extend with respect to and engage said opening when said locking
~~means~~ latch is locked.

11 (Currently Amended)

5 The improvement in the container of Claim ~~3~~ 9 further
characterized in that said valve projection means comprises a round
elongate valve projection engages a face of said opening in sealing
contact therewith when said locking ~~means~~ latch is locked.

10 12 (Currently Amended)

 The improvement in the container of Claim ~~10~~ 11 further
characterized in that said valve projection means has a face which
extends over and covers said opening in sealing contact therewith.

15 13 (Currently Amended)

 The improvement in the container of Claim 10 further
characterized in that said valve projection means extends into said
opening in sealing contact therewith.

A container capable of having an interior sealed with respect to an ambient atmospheric condition and having a valve which is automatically actuatable thereon, said container comprising:

- 5 a) a container housing;
- b) openable cover means on said housing and which
 is openable providing access to an interior
 compartment;
- c) a locking means for holding said cover means in
10 a closed position with respect to said
 container housing, said locking means including
 a shiftable locking element providing a
 fastening locking action between said housing
 and said cover means and thereby enabling a
15 seal of the interior compartment; and
- d) valve means associated with said locking
 element of said locking means and having a
 valve opening and a valve closure plug
 shiftable with said locking element with
20 respect to said opening to automatically open
 or close said valve means in response to an
 action of opening or closing the cover means
 and locking same or unlocking same, such that
 the valve means is only actuatable upon locking
25 or unlocking of said locking element.

15 (New)

The container of Claim 14 further characterized in that said locking element is on said locking means and is located to be actuated by locking of said locking means.

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16 (New)

The container of Claim 15 further characterized in that said locking means comprises at least one locking latch and said valve closure plug is located to be actuated by the locking of said locking latch.

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17 (New)

The container of Claim 12 further characterized in that said valve closure plug of said valve means is located on said locking element to engage said valve opening and close said valve means on said container when the cover is in the closed position, and said cover means opens said valve means when the cover means is moved to an open position.

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18 (New)

The container of Claim 16 further characterized in that said plug has a face which extends over and covers said valve opening in sealing contact therewith.

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19 (New)

The container of Claim 18 further characterized in that said projection extends into said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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A container capable of having an interior compartment sealed with respect to an ambient atmospheric condition and for equalizing pressure conditions in a different ambient atmosphere, an
5 improvement comprising:

a) an opening on a housing of the container between said housing interior compartment and an external atmosphere;

10 b) locking means for holding said housing in a closed position and enabling a seal of the interior compartment; and

c) valve means associated with said locking means and being actuatable in response to an action of opening or closing the locking means, said valve means
15 comprising:

1) a valve opening on said container housing and communicating with said interior compartment; and

20 2) a valve projection on said locking means and located to be engagable with said valve opening to sealingly close said valve opening when said locking means is locked and to move away from and open said opening and hence the interior compartment when said locking means is
25 unlocked, such that opening and closing of said

valve means occurs automatically upon opening and closing of said locking means; whereby the valve means is only closed and the interior compartment sealed when said locking means is locked and is opened and the interior compartment unsealed when the locking means is unlocked.

21 (New)

The improvement in the container of Claim 20 further characterized in that said valve projection is located to extend with respect to and engage said opening when said locking means is locked.

22 (New)

The improvement in the container of Claim 20 further characterized in that said valve projection engages a face of said opening in sealing contact therewith when said locking means is locked.

23 (New)

The improvement in the container of Claim 21 further characterized in that said projection has a face which extends over and covers said opening in sealing contact therewith.

24 (New)

The improvement in the container of Claim 21 further characterized in that said projection extends into said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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25 (New)

A container capable of having an interior sealed with respect to an ambient atmospheric condition and having a valve which is automatically actuatable thereon, said container comprising:

- a) a container housing;
- b) openable cover means on said housing and which is openable providing access to an interior compartment;
- c) latching means including a pivotable latching element for locking said cover means in a closed position with respect to said container housing and enabling a seal of the interior compartment; and
- d) valve means associated with said cover means and said latching means and automatically closing said valve means when said latching means is locked and opening said valve means in response to an action of opening said latching means to thereby obtain pressure equalization with an external atmosphere.

26 (New)

The container of Claim 25 further characterized in that said valve means comprises a valve projection located on said locking latch and closes said valve means when locked and automatically opens said valve means when said latch is unlocked.

27 (New)

The container of Claim 26 further characterized in that said valve means comprises an opening in said container and which is engaged by said projection when said locking latch is locked.

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28 (New)

The container of Claim 27 further characterized in that said projection extends into said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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A container capable of having an interior compartment sealed with respect to an ambient atmospheric condition and for equalizing pressure conditions in a different pressure condition, an improvement comprising:

a) an opening located in a recess on a housing of the container and providing communication between said housing interior compartment and an external atmosphere;

b) a shiftable locking latch for holding a cover member associated with said housing in a closed position and enabling a seal of the interior compartment; and

c) valve projection means associated with said locking latch and being actuable in response to an action of opening or closing the locking latch such that the valve projection means extends into said recess in sealingwise contact therewith and sealingly engages said opening and covers same when the locking latch is shifted to the closed position and is removed from said opening and out of said recess when said latch is opened.

30 (New)

The container of Claim 9 further characterized in that said valve projection means is located to extend with respect to and engage said opening when said locking latch is locked.

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31 (New)

The improvement in the container of Claim 9 further characterized in that said valve projection means comprises a round elongate valve projection engages a face of said opening in sealing contact therewith when said locking latch is locked.

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32 (New)

The improvement in the container of Claim 11 further characterized in that said valve projection means has a face which extends over and covers said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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33 (New)

The improvement in the container of Claim 10 further characterized in that said valve projection means extends into said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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A container capable of having an interior sealed with respect to an ambient atmospheric condition and having a valve which is automatically actuatable thereon, said container comprising:

- 5 a) a container housing:
- b) openable cover means on said housing and which
 is openable providing access to an interior
 compartment;
- c) a locking latching means for holding said cover
10 means in a closed position with respect to said
 container housing said locking latching means
 including a shiftable latching element enabling
 a locking of the container and simultaneously
 enabling a sealing of the interior compartment;
15 and
- d) valve means associated with said latching
 element of said locking means and having a
 valve closure shiftable with said latching
 element to automatically open or close said
20 valve means in response to an action of opening
 or closing the locking means and locking same
 or unlocking same.

35 (New)

The container of Claim 34 further characterized in that said valve means is located to be closed by locking of said locking means and thereby sealing said interior compartment.

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36 (New)

The container of Claim 35 further characterized in that said latching element comprises a locking latch which forms part of a locking means and said valve means is located to be engaged and actuated by the locking of said locking latch.

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37 (New)

The container of Claim 36 further characterized in that said valve means comprises a valve actuator located on said locking latch and closes said valve when locked and is moved to cause an opening of said valve means when said latch is unlocked.

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38 (New)

The container of Claim 37 further characterized in that said actuator comprises a valve projection on said latch.

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39 (New)

The container of Claim 38 further characterized in that said valve means comprises an opening in said container and which is engaged by said valve projection when said locking latch is locked.

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40 (New)

The container of Claim 34 further characterized in that said projection has a face which extends over and covers said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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41 (New)

The container of Claim 34 further characterized in that said projection extends into said opening in sealing contact therewith.

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